

PHILLIPS DAYES

LAW FIRM

A Professional Corporation

3101 North Central Avenue, Suite 1500

Phoenix, Arizona 85012

TREY DAYES, No. 020805

SEAN C. DAVIS, No. 030754

PRESTON K. FLOOD, No. 032764

seand@phillipsdayeslaw.com

(602) 288-1610 ext. 432

Attorneys for Plaintiff

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

DISTRICT OF ARIZONA

Kimberly Miller;

Plaintiff,

vs.

RS Hotel Ventures, LLC, an Arizona
corporation;

Defendant,

Case No.: _____

COMPLAINT

Plaintiff Kimberly Miller, for her Complaint against Defendant, alleges as follows:

NATURE OF THE CASE

1. The Fair Labor Standards Act is designed to eliminate “labor conditions detrimental to the maintenance of the minimum standard of living necessary for health, efficiency and general well-being of workers.” 29 U.S.C. § 202(a). To achieve its goals, the FLSA sets minimum wage and overtime pay requirements for covered employers. *See* 29 U.S.C. §§ 206(a), 207(a).

2. Employers must compensate employees for all work that employers permit

1 employees to perform. *See* 29 C.F.R. § 785.11. In such cases, it is the responsibility of
2 employers' management to ensure that work is not performed if management does not
3 desire for such work to be performed. *See* 29 C.F.R. § 785.13. Employers may not accept
4 the benefits of employees performing work without compensating the employees for their
5 work. *Id.*

6 3. Plaintiff brings this action against Defendant for unlawful failure to pay
7 overtime wages in direct violation of the Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. § 201 *et*
8 *seq.* ("FLSA").

9 4. Plaintiff seeks to recover unpaid overtime compensation and an equal amount
10 of liquidated damages, including interest thereon, statutory penalties, attorneys' fees, and
11 costs pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216(b).
12

13 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

14 5. This Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter and the parties hereto
15 pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216(b), and 28 U.S.C. § 1331.

16 6. Venue is proper under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b) because all or a substantial part of
17 the events or omissions giving rise to this matter occurred in this District.

18 7. The named Defendant, by virtue of their own acts and omissions or by virtue
19 of the acts and omissions committed by one or more of their agents, employees or
20 representatives, as described herein, have conducted business or caused events to occur
21 within the District of Arizona and, more particularly, within Cochise County, Arizona, as
22 more particularly described herein so as to give rise to both subject matter and personal
23 jurisdiction of this Court.
24
25

PARTIES

9. At all times material hereto, Plaintiff was a resident of Cochise County, Arizona.

10. At all times material hereto, RS Hotel Ventures, LLC, was incorporated in the State of Arizona with its principal place of business in Cochise County, Arizona.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

11. At all relevant times, Plaintiff was an “employee” of Defendant.

12. The provisions set forth in 29 U.S.C. § 207 of the FLSA apply to Defendant.

13. At all relevant times, Defendant was and continues to be an “employer” as defined in 29 U.S.C. § 203(d).

14. Defendant should be deemed an “employer” for purposes of the FLSA including, without limitation, 29 U.S.C. § 216.

15. At all times material to this action, Defendant was and continues to be an “enterprise engaged in commerce or in the production of goods for commerce” as defined by 29 U.S.C. § 203(s)(1).

16. Plaintiff engaged in commerce or in the production of goods for commerce and is therefore individually covered under the FLSA pursuant to 29 U.S.C. §§206(a), 207(a)(1), 212(c).

17. On information and belief, at all relevant times, the annual gross revenue of Defendant exceeded, and continue to exceed, \$500,000.00.

18. RS Hotel Ventures, LLC, is involved in the hospitality industry managing hotels.

1 19. Defendant hired Plaintiff on or about May 15, 2015 as a member of the
2 housekeeping staff.

3 20. Plaintiff's job duties and responsibilities included preparing and helping to
4 serve breakfast to guests each morning, checking guests out of the hotel, cleaning rooms,
5 and cleaning laundry.

6 21. Defendant compensated Plaintiff at an hourly rate of \$10.25 per hour.

7 22. Beginning on or about February 2016 until March 1, 2017, Plaintiff regularly
8 worked approximately sixty-five (65) hours per a week for Defendant.
9

10 23. Defendant did not pay Plaintiff overtime for hours worked in excess of forty
11 (40) in a work week.

12 24. Defendant withheld taxes out of Plaintiff's paycheck pursuant to IRS
13 regulations.

14 25. Plaintiff was a non-exempt employee.

15 26. Plaintiff had no supervision or management responsibilities.

16 27. Plaintiff could neither hire nor fire employees.

17 28. Plaintiff had no authority to exercise significant independent judgment on
18 issues that affect the whole company when carrying out her job responsibilities.
19

20 29. Defendant managed, supervised, and directed all aspects of Plaintiff's job
21 duties and responsibilities.

22 30. Plaintiff's primary duty was not the performance of work directly related to
23 the management or general business operations of RS Hotel Ventures, LLC.
24
25

1 31. Plaintiff's primary duty was not the performance of work requiring advanced
2 knowledge in a field of science or learning that was acquired by a prolonged course of
3 specialized intellectual instruction.

4 32. Plaintiff did not perform work requiring advanced knowledge.

5 33. Plaintiff did not perform work in a field of science or learning.

6 34. Plaintiff did not have an advanced degree and was not required to have one to
7 perform the work.

8 35. The knowledge required to perform the work of a housekeeper is not
9 acquired by a prolonged course of specialized intellectual study.

10 36. Plaintiff's work did not require consistent exercise of discretion and
11 judgment.

12 37. Plaintiff's work did not require her to analyze, interpret, or make deductions
13 from varying facts or circumstances.

14 38. Plaintiff's duties were carried out in a mechanical and routine manner and
15 she had no authority to make independent decisions in performing those duties.

16 39. Plaintiff's work did not require invention, imagination, originality, or talent.

17 40. Plaintiff's work did not require creative or original analysis and
18 interpretation.

19 41. Plaintiff has retained the law firm of Phillips Dayes Law Firm PC to
20 prosecute her claims against Defendant on her behalf and has agreed to pay reasonable
21 costs and attorney's fees in the prosecution of this matter.

COUNT ONE
OVERTIME VIOLATION—29 U.S.C. § 207

42. Plaintiff incorporates and adopts paragraphs 1 through 41 above as if fully set forth herein.

43. While employed by Defendant from February 2016 through March 1, 2017, Plaintiff regularly worked multiple hours of overtime per week.

44. Plaintiff was a non-exempt employee.

45. Defendant has intentionally and willfully failed and refused to pay Plaintiff overtime according to the provisions of the FLSA.

46. As the direct and proximate result of Defendant's violations of the FLSA, Plaintiff has suffered damages by failing to receive compensation in accordance with 29 U.S.C. § 207.

47. Pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216, Defendant is liable to Plaintiff for an amount equal to one and one-half times her regular pay rate for each hour of overtime worked per week.

48. In addition to the amount of unpaid wages owed to Plaintiff, she is also entitled to recover an additional equal amount as liquidated damages pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216(b).

49. On information and belief, Defendant's conduct in failing to properly compensate Plaintiff, in violation of the FLSA, was willful.

50. Defendant has not made a good faith effort to comply with the FLSA.

1 51. Plaintiff has been required to bring this action to recover her overtime
2 compensation, and her statutory liquidated damages, and as the direct and foreseeable
3 result of Defendant's conduct, Plaintiff has incurred costs and attorneys' fees.

4 WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests that judgment be entered in her
5 favor against Defendant:

- 6 a. Awarding Plaintiff overtime compensation in the amount due for all of
7 her time worked in excess of forty (40) hours per week at a pay rate
8 equal to one and one-half times Plaintiff's regular rate of pay while at
9 work for Defendant, in an amount proved at trial;
- 10 b. Awarding Plaintiff liquidated damages in an amount equal to the
11 overtime award;
- 12 c. Awarding Plaintiff reasonable attorneys' fees, costs, and expenses of the
13 litigation pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216(b);
- 14 d. Awarding Plaintiff pre-judgment interest, at the highest legal rate, on all
15 amounts awarded under subsections (a) and (b) above from the date of
16 the payment due for that pay period until paid in full;
- 17 e. Awarding Plaintiff post-judgment interest, at the highest legal rate, on
18 all awards from the date of such award until paid in full; and
- 19 f. For such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.
- 20
- 21
- 22
- 23
- 24
- 25

COUNT TWO
DECLARATORY JUDGMENT

52. Plaintiff incorporates and adopts paragraphs 1 through 51 above as if fully set forth herein.

53. Plaintiff and Defendant have an overtime compensation dispute pending.

54. The Court has jurisdiction to hear Plaintiff's request for declaratory relief pursuant to the Declaratory Judgment Act, 28 U.S.C. §§ 2201–02.

55. Plaintiff is entitled to declarations, and requests that the Court make declarations as to the following matters and as to other matters deemed appropriate by the Court:

- a. Defendant employed Plaintiff.
- b. Defendant is engaged in an enterprise covered by the overtime provisions of the FLSA.
- c. Plaintiff individually is covered by the overtime provisions of the FLSA.
- d. Plaintiff was not an exempt employee pursuant to the FLSA.
- e. Defendant failed and refused to make payments of overtime compensation to Plaintiff, in violation of the provisions of the FLSA.
- f. Defendant's failures to pay overtime compensation to Plaintiff were willful.
- g. Plaintiff is entitled to damages in the amount of overtime compensation not paid by Defendant at the rate of one and one-half times Plaintiff's regular rate of pay.
- h. Plaintiff is entitled to an equal amount as liquidated damages.

- 1 i. Plaintiff is entitled to recover her costs and a reasonable attorney's fee
2 incurred in prosecuting her claim.

3 56. It is in the public interest to have these declarations of rights recorded as
4 Plaintiff's declaratory judgment action serves the useful purposes of clarifying and
5 settling the legal relations at issue, preventing future harm, and promoting the remedial
6 purposes of the FLSA.

7
8 57. The declaratory judgment action further terminates and affords relief from
9 uncertainty, insecurity, and controversy giving rise to the proceeding.

10 WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests that judgment be entered in her
11 favor against Defendant:

- 12 a. Declaring, pursuant to the Declaratory Judgment Act, 28 U.S.C. §§
13 2201–02, that the acts and practices complained of herein are in
14 violation of the overtime and wage provisions of the FLSA;
15 b. Awarding Plaintiff her reasonable attorney's fees and the costs and
16 expenses of the litigation pursuant to the FLSA; and
17 c. For such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper
18

19
20 Dated: October 9, 2017

Respectfully submitted,

21 **PHILLIPS DAYES LAW FIRM PC**

22 By: /s/ Sean C. Davis

23 Trey Dayes
24 Sean C. Davis
25 Preston Flood
Attorneys for Plaintiff

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25